Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /088 W ------ 080607

R 271420Z FEB 75 FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3295 INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM AMEMBASSY LISBON

CONFIDENTIAL LOURENCO MARQUES 218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, MZ

SUBJECT: WORLD MINERALS PRESENTS MAJOR INVESTMENT PROPOSAL TO MOZAMBIQUE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

1. PHILIP PARIS, VICE-PRESIDENT, AND JOHN BROWNING, DIRECTOR, OF WORLD MINERALS CALLED AT CONGEN FEBRUARY 27 TO BRIEF US ON \$1.2 BILLION INVESTMENT PROPOSAL THEY HAVE PRESENTED TO MOZAMBIQUE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF PROPOSAL, WHICH THEY REQUESTED BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, ARE:

(A) WORLD MINERALS, AS WELL AS THREE OTHER U.S. COMPANIES WHOSE NAMES CANNOT BE DIVULGED YET, SEEK 20,000 SQUARE KILOMETER PETROLEUM AND GAS EXPLORATION CONCESSION IN AREA EXTENDING ROUGHLY FROM SAVE RIVER TO VILANCULOS. AREA INCLUDES PANDE GAS FIELD (PROVEN RESERVES OF ONE TRILLION CUBIC FEET). GROUP WOULD SPEND OVER \$11 MILLION FOR EXPLORATION.

(B) IF SUFFICIENT NATURAL GAS IS FOUND IN CONCESSION AREA, GROUP WILL INVEST \$1.2 BILLION IN FACILITIES AND SHIPS TO EXPORT LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) TO U.S. MINIMUM OF FOUR TRILLION CUBIC FEET ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE PROJECT ECONOMICALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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VIABLE. INVESTMENT WOULD INCLUDE \$400 MILLION FOR LNG PLANT

TO BE BUILT ON BAZORUTO ISLAND AND \$750 MILLION FOR 5 LNG SHIPS. MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GIVEN 50 PERCENT SHARE OF MOZAMBIQUE GAS PRODUCTION COMPANY, EVEN THOUGH ALL INVESTMENT PUT UP BY GROUP. GOVERNMENT REVENUE FROM PROJECT WOULD BE IN ORDER OF \$20 MILLION PER YEAR.

- 2. AFTER INITIAL TALKS WITH DIRECTOR OF MOZAMBIQUE BUREAU OF MINES, PARIS AND BROWING HAVE IMPRESSION PROJECT PRESENTS TWO PROBLEMS FOR MTG: (A) MTG WAS PLANNING TO USE PANDE GAS FOR AMMONIA AND FERTILIZER COMPLEX; AND (B) MAJOR INVESTMENT CONTRACT WITH US PRIVATE INVESTMENT GROUP MAY APPEAR TO FRELIMO'S SOCIALIST ALLIES A SELL-OUT TO CAPITALISM. RE (A), PARIS AND BROWNING POINTED OUT THAT LNG WOULD PROVIDE MOZAMBIQUE HIGHEST RETURN FOR ITS GAS AND THAT PETROCHEMICALS REQUIRE RELATIVELY LITTLE GAS, PROBABLY AVAILABLE FROM OTHER AREAS OF MOZAMBIQUE.
- 3. PARIS AND BROWNING WILL HAVE FURTHER TALKS WITH MTG OFFICIALS BUT DO NOT EXPECT ANY DECISION BEFORE THEY DEPART FEBRUARY 28.
- 4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS ON OTHER COMPANIES INVOLVED IN PROPOSAL. WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: LNG, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:

Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975LOUREN00218 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750069-0826 From: LOURENCO MARQUES Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975027/aaaaagdg.tel Line Count: 85

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION AF Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: buchantr

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 13 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by buchantr>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: EINV, ENRG, MZ, US, WORLD MINERALS, (PARIS, PHILIP), (BROWNING, JOHN)

To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006